

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-4 were pending in the present application. By way of this reply, claims 5 and 6 have been added. No new matter has been introduced by way of these additions. Accordingly, claims 1-6 are pending in the present patent application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended for clarification. Claims 5 and 6 have been added. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 3B and paragraph [0040] of the Instant Specification.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledge the formal drawings filed November 12, 2003, and indicate whether or not they are acceptable.

Claims for Priority

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledge the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119.

Abstract

The Abstract has been amended to comply with 37 CFR §1.72(b). Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts it is unclear what is meant by “form card acceptance portions positioned at least at upper and lower positions.” (*See* Office Action dated June 30, 2005 at page 2). By way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended for clarification. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,719,541 issued to Mader (hereinafter “Mader”). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, “each corner at the top of said moving contact plate is bent into an upper component and lower component in such a fashion as to form card acceptance portions, and a distal end portion of said card is brought into contact with an inner surface of said card acceptance portions.” Advantageously, this simple design provides an electromagnetic relay that is fully operational yet generates minimal wear dust. Furthermore, this design allows the width of the card acceptance portions to be sufficiently large to securely hold the card.

The Examiner has attempted to equate the card acceptance portions as recited in the claims with the “opening” disclosed in Mader. (*See* Office Action dated June 30, 2005 at page 3). This association is improper as the “opening” disclosed in Mader is not located at the top corners of the moving contact plate. In fact, Mader discloses prolongations that extend downward from the top which support a lug that engages the “opening”. (*See* Mader at column


4, lines 8-13 and at Figures 1 and 9A). Thus, Mader's "opening" is clearly not at the top of the moving plate. This squarely contradicts amended independent claim 1 which requires the card acceptance portions be at the top corners of the moving contact plate. Thus, Mader does not teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Mader. Claims 2-4 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 15115/095001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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